

March 24 1941

Col. Howard C. Gilbert
Com. 372nd Regiment
Fort Dix, N.Jersey.

Honorable Sir:

You have received a letter from Dr. Leroy Morris of Trenton N.J., telling you to expect this one from me. I am very grateful to Dr. Morris for having established this contact for me. I am sure you must receive many letters from so many sources, that it would be impossible for you to take all of them seriously.

Please believe me, this invitation I am extending is from the bottom of my heart. I was motivated by the thought that the regiment would enjoy the day, and I know the Negroes of New Jersey, in fact all over, would be able to thrill with real pride at the sight of their regiment all together.

Our baseball league is now six years old. We still have a lot to do, but we have made enough progress in getting organized to feel proud. Our opening day in Newark is a really big event. I doubt very much that any event in this state attracts as many race people at any one time. The ball park is very beautiful, and I hope to have the entire 372nd seated on each side of the flagpole.

I wonder if in conjunction with all this it would be possible to have you throw out the first ball to start The Negro National League Baseball season. I realize this is all asking a great deal, but you do not know what an important event the opening day is in the lives of so many of our folks. I know the sight of our soldiers all together, and enjoying themselves too, would really bring a lot of happiness to every one.

A friend has suggested that I come to camp and see you in person. I would be glad to if it is possible to get a few minutes of your time. I will greatly appreciate hearing from you. The opening day is Sunday May 11th.

Very Truly Yours